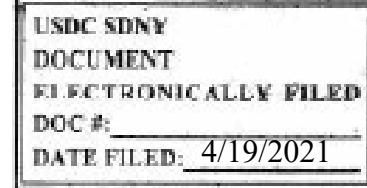


UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK



United States of America,

-v-

20-mj-8698 (AJN)

ORDER

Sheng-Wen Cheng,

Defendant.

ALISON J. NATHAN, District Judge:

A videoconference is scheduled in this matter via the CourtCall platform for **April 20, 2021 at 3:00 p.m.** Defense counsel will be given an opportunity to speak with the Defendant by telephone for fifteen minutes before the proceeding begins (i.e., at **2:45 p.m.**). Defense counsel will receive a call at the number provided to Chambers during case intake at that time.

To optimize the quality of the video feed, the Court, the Defendant, counsel for the Defendant, and counsel for the Government will appear by video for the proceeding; all others will participate by telephone. Due to the limited capacity of the CourtCall system, only one counsel per party may participate.

Co-counsel, members of the press, and the public may access the audio feed of the conference by calling 855-268-7844 and using access code 32091812# and PIN 9921299.

In advance of the conference, Chambers will email the parties with further information on how to access the conference. Those participating by video will be provided a link to be pasted into their browser. **The link is non-transferrable and can be used by only one person;** further, it should be used **only** at the time of the conference.

To optimize use of the CourtCall technology, all those participating by video should:

1. Use the most recent version of Firefox, Chrome, or Safari as the web browser. Do **not** use Internet Explorer.
2. Use hard-wired internet or WiFi. If using WiFi, the device should be positioned as close to the Wi-Fi router as possible to ensure a strong signal. (Weak signals may cause delays or dropped feeds.)
3. Minimize the number of others using the same WiFi router during the conference.
4. Use headphones or a headset to improve audio quality.

Further, all participants must identify themselves every time they speak, spell any proper names for the court reporter, and take care not to interrupt or speak over one another. Finally, all of those accessing the conference—whether in listen-only mode or otherwise—are reminded that recording or rebroadcasting of the proceeding is prohibited by law.

If CourtCall does not work well enough and the Court decides to transition to its teleconference line, counsel should call 888-363-4749 and use access code 9196964#. (Members of the press and public may call the same number, but will not be permitted to speak during the conference.) In that event, and in accordance with the Court's Emergency Individual Rules and Practices in Light of COVID-19, available at <https://www.nysd.uscourts.gov/hon-alison-j-nathan>, counsel should adhere to the following rules and guidelines during the hearing:

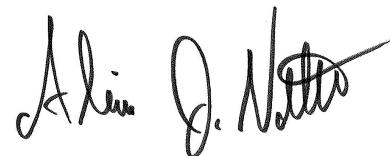
1. Each party should designate a single lawyer to speak on its behalf (including when noting the appearances of other counsel on the telephone).
2. Counsel should use a landline whenever possible, should use a headset instead of a speakerphone, and must mute themselves whenever they are not speaking to eliminate background noise. In addition, counsel should not use voice-activated systems that do not allow the user to know when someone else is trying to speak at the same time.
3. To facilitate an orderly teleconference and the creation of an accurate transcript, counsel are *required* to identify themselves every time they speak. Counsel should spell any proper names for the court reporter. Counsel should also take special care not to interrupt or speak over one another.

4. If there is a beep or chime indicating that a new caller has joined while counsel is speaking, counsel should pause to allow the Court to ascertain the identity of the new participant and confirm that the court reporter has not been dropped from the call.

If possible, defense counsel shall discuss the attached Waiver of Right to be Present at Criminal Proceeding with the Defendant and return the completed form prior to the proceeding. Defense counsel may sign on the Defendant's behalf if authorized by the Defendant to do so.

SO ORDERED.

Dated: April 19, 2021
New York, New York



ALISON J. NATHAN
United States District Judge

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

-----X
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

-v-

**WAIVER OF RIGHT TO BE PRESENT AT
CRIMINAL PROCEEDING**

,
Defendant.

()-cr-() (AJN)

-----X

Check Proceeding that Applies

____ Arraignment

I have been given a copy of the indictment containing the charges against me and have reviewed it with my attorney. I understand that I have a right to appear before a judge in a courtroom in the Southern District of New York to confirm that I have received and reviewed the indictment; to have the indictment read aloud to me if I wish; to enter a plea of either guilty or not guilty before the judge; and to have an attorney beside me as I do. By signing this document, I wish to advise the court that after consultation with my attorney I willingly give up my right to appear in person before the judge for my arraignment. By signing this document, I also wish to advise the court that I willingly give up any right I might have to have my attorney next to me for my arraignment so long as the following conditions are met. I want my attorney to be able to participate in the proceeding and to be able to speak on my behalf during the proceeding. I also want the ability to speak privately with my attorney at any time during the proceeding if I wish to do so.

Date:

Signature of Defendant

Print Name

____ Conference

I have been charged in an indictment with violations of federal law. I understand that I have a right to be present at all conferences concerning this indictment that are held by a judge in the Southern District of New York, unless the conference involves only a question of law. I understand that at these conferences the judge may, among other things, 1) set a schedule for the case including the date at which the trial will be held, and 2) determine whether, under the Speedy Trial Act, certain periods of time should be properly excluded in setting the time by which the trial must occur. I have discussed these issues with my attorney and wish to give up my right to be present at the conferences. By signing this document, I wish to advise the court that I willingly give up my right to be present at the conferences in my case for the period of time in which access to the courthouse has been restricted on account of the COVID-19 pandemic. I request that my attorney be permitted to represent my interests at the proceedings even though I will not be present.

Date:

Signature of Defendant

Print Name

_____ Change of Plea

I am aware that I have been charged with violations of federal law. I have consulted with my attorney about those charges. I have decided that I wish to enter a plea of guilty to certain charges. I understand I have a right to appear before a judge in a courtroom in the Southern District of New York to enter my plea of guilty and to have my attorney beside me as I do. I am also aware that the public health emergency created by the COVID-19 pandemic has interfered with travel and restricted access to the federal courthouse. I have discussed these issues with my attorney. By signing this document, I wish to advise the court that I willingly give up my right to appear in person before the judge to enter a plea of guilty. By signing this document, I also wish to advise the court that I willingly give up any right I might have to have my attorney next to me as I enter my plea so long as the following conditions are met. I want my attorney to be able to participate in the proceeding and to be able to speak on my behalf during the proceeding. I also want the ability to speak privately with my attorney at any time during the proceeding if I wish to do so.

Date: _____
Signature of Defendant

Print Name

I hereby affirm that I am aware of my obligation to discuss with my client the charges contained in the indictment, my client's rights to attend and participate in the criminal proceedings encompassed by this waiver, and this waiver form. I affirm that my client knowingly and voluntarily consents to the proceedings being held in my client's absence. I will inform my client of what transpires at the proceedings and provide my client with a copy of the transcript of the proceedings, if requested.

Date: _____
Signature of Defense Counsel

Print Name

Addendum for a defendant who requires services of an interpreter:

I used the services of an interpreter to discuss these issues with the defendant. The interpreter also translated this document, in its entirety, to the defendant before the defendant signed it. The interpreter's name is:

_____.
Date: _____
Signature of Defense Counsel

Accepted: _____
Signature of Judge
Date: